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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/674,225	09/29/2003	Dennis A. Kramer	60,130-1898; 03MRA0456	2509

26096 7590 09/29/2006

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EXAMINER

TORRES, MELANIE

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3683

DATE MAILED: 09/29/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/674,225	KRAMER, DENNIS A.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Melanie Torres	3683	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 May 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 02 May 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>6/12/06, 8/18/06</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The information disclosure statement filed June 12, 2006 fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(3) because it does not include a concise explanation of the relevance, as it is presently understood by the individual designated in 37 CFR 1.56(c) most knowledgeable about the content of the information, of each patent listed that is not in the English language. It has been placed in the application file, but except where initialed the information referred to therein has not been considered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 13-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Riggs et al.

Re claims 13-17, Riggs et al. discloses a distance sensor comprising: a magnet (20) having at least a north pole and a south pole, with an axis defined extending through said north and said south poles; and a Hall effect sensor (50) said Hall effect

Art Unit: 3683

sensor and said magnet being mounted for movement relative to each other along a linear path (25) said linear path being non-parallel to said axis. See below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-12, and 18-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McCann et al. in view of Riggs et al.

Re claims 1-11, and 19-23, McCann et al. teach a disc brake actuator comprising a pair of pistons (24), each of said pair of pistons being driven to drive a brake pad (26) into engagement with an item to be braked, an adjustment mechanism for said pair of pistons, said adjustment mechanism including tappet gears (22) associated with each of said pair of pistons and driven to drive a threaded tappet, said threaded tappet in turn driving said pair of pistons said pair of pistons being constrained from rotation such that when said tappet gears are driven to rotate, a threaded connection between said gears and said pair of pistons causes said pair of pistons to move linearly and compensate for wear on said brake pad, an electric motor (40) for driving said tappet gears; and a displacement sensor (130) for sensing movement of at least one of said pair of pistons during braking operation, said displacement sensor providing feedback to a control for said electric motor, said control controlling said electric motor to drive said tappet gears

Art Unit: 3683

and provide appropriate adjustment based upon an amount of movement sensed by said displacement sensor (column 6, lines 6-10). However, McCann et al. do not teach wherein said displacement sensor including a magnet having at least north and south poles, with an axis defined extending through said north and said south poles, and a Hall effect sensor movable relative to said magnet, and a path of movement between said Hall effect sensor and said magnet being defined such that said path of movement is linear and is non-parallel to said axis. Riggs et al. teach a displacement sensor including a magnet (20) having at least north and south poles, with an axis defined extending through said north and said south poles, and a Hall effect sensor (50) movable relative to said magnet, and a path of movement between said Hall effect sensor and said magnet being defined such that said path of movement is linear and is non-parallel to said axis. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have replaced the displacement sensor of McCann et al. with the displacement sensor of Riggs et al. in order to reduce the complexity and number of parts of the sensor.

Re claims 12 and 18, McCann et al. as modified do not teach wherein the sensor is housed in plastic. It would have been an obvious matter of design choice to make the housing of plastic since applicant has not stated that this material solves any stated problem or is for any particular purpose and it appears that the sensor would perform equally well with a variety of materials.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-23 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Melanie Torres whose telephone number is (571)272-7127. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday, 6:00 AM - 4:30 PM, Tuesday, 6:00 - 12:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James McClellan can be reached on (571)272-6786. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Application/Control Number: 10/674,225
Art Unit: 3683

Page 6

MT

September 26, 2006

Melanie Torres 9/26/06

*Melanie Torres
Primary Examiner*